

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of

Petition for Rulemaking of the Cellular
Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA)
Concerning Implementation of WRC-2000:
Review of Spectrum and Regulatory
Requirements for IMT-2000

File No. RM-9920

**UNIVERSAL WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS CONSORTIUM (UWCC) COMMENTS
IN SUPPORT OF CTIA'S PETITION FOR RULEMAKING TO ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL
3G WIRELESS SPECTRUM**

The Universal Wireless Communications Consortium (UWCC), a Bellevue, Washington-based international consortium of more than 100 wireless carriers and vendors supporting the deployment of TDMA-EDGE and WIN technology standards around the globe, submits these Comments in support of CTIA's Petition for a Rulemaking wherein the Commission would allocate additional third generation (3G) wireless spectrum as identified at the ITU's WRC-2000 Conference. The UWCC Board member companies, which include AT&T Wireless Services, SBC Wireless, BellSouth Cellular Corporation, Alcatel USA, Hughes Network Systems, Lucent Technologies, Motorola, Industry Digital PCS, and Compaq Computer Corporation believe that the Commission's immediate commencement of a rulemaking to identify and allocate additional spectrum from the 1.7 GHz and/or 2.5 GHz bands for International Mobile Telecommunications 2000 (IMT 2000) 3G services is essential to the continued

competitive viability of countless U.S. wireless providers. Furthermore, the UWCC believes that wireless consumers in the United States as well as potential global consumers of U.S. developed 3G services, will be adversely impacted if the Commission fails to act with dispatch in identifying and allocating 3G spectrum that can be used in a harmonized, spectrum efficient fashion both within the United States and in the rapidly expanding global wireless marketplace.

Discussion

UWCC member companies currently provide TDMA-*EDGE*¹ based digital wireless services to 41 million subscribers worldwide, with an additional 24 million analog subscribers being served by TDMA-*EDGE* operators. In Latin America, where TDMA-*EDGE* usage has increased 121% in the past year, TDMA-*EDGE* is the dominant wireless technology serving 17 million subscribers.

In the United States, where approximately 100 million consumers are currently using wireless phones, the growth in the wireless marketplace is driven in large part by the fierce competition amongst U.S. based wireless operators. This robust competition based on multiple wireless standards affords U.S. consumers new competitive wireless service offerings at ever diminishing prices.

¹TDMA-*EDGE* refers to the wireless technology promoted by the UWCC member companies and includes the currently available second generation (2G) Time Division Multiple Access technology as well as the future EDGE third generation (3G) technology.

While the U.S. wireless market is expected to continue to grow substantially in the near term, wireless deployment is also growing significantly in every region of the globe. In high tech G8 countries, wireless telecommunications, including wireless Internet offerings, typically represents one of the most growthful segments of the economy. The fact that the recent 3G spectrum auctions generated approximately \$35 billion in the United Kingdom and approximately \$50 billion in Germany provides a further compelling indication of the expected deployment of 3G technology in EC member countries. Moreover, throughout much of the developing world, analog first generation and second generation digital wireless systems are bringing modern communications to many of the poorest, under served countries where wireline telephony options are nonexistent or too costly for deployment.

While statistics confirm the spectacular growth of the global wireless subscriber base, the UWCC believes that most growth projections are conservative and fail to fully account for the potential increased consumer demand that will quickly develop when multifaceted 3G wireless services are available. For example, TDMA-EDGE's 3G services will include voice, full motion video, Internet and high speed data transmission. For U.S. wireless consumers as well as consumers in emerging economies, the near term prospect of simultaneous access to this panoply of multimedia and data applications is expected to trigger an overwhelming demand for 3G wireless services.

Unfortunately, for U.S. wireless providers and vendors who are part of the UWCC membership, the potential for full deployment of the UWCC's TDMA-*EDGE* 3G technology is overshadowed by two serious regulatory challenges: first, the wireless industry in the United States needs additional 3G spectrum; and, secondly, that additional spectrum must be promptly and prudently allocated by the FCC so that it is harmonized to the maximum degree possible with global 3G spectrum designated by the ITU's WRC 2000 Conference.

With the active involvement and leadership of U.S. government and industry delegates, the WRC 2000 Conference in Istanbul, Turkey recently concluded that maximum global deployment of IMT-2000 3G services would be facilitated by the harmonized use of spectrum in the 1710-1885 MHz and 2500-2690 MHz bands — as well as the 3G spectrum bands previously identified at the WRC 1992 Conference. Based on the WRC 2000 Conference's designation of these bands for deploying 3G services, it is now crucial that the FCC commence a formal rulemaking that will determine, as quickly as possible, what portions of the 1.7 GHz and 2.5 GHz bands can be utilized for domestic 3G services. Importantly, 3G services must be offered within these two bands if U.S. consumers and the U.S. wireless industry are to enjoy the numerous benefits resulting from a harmonized global 3G marketplace.

Public interest benefits from utilization of harmonized global spectrum for the

provision of 3G services include:

1. U.S. consumers' access to a greater array of 3G services that will be more affordable due to global economies of scale;
2. U.S. consumers' unfettered ability to globally roam on multi-band, multimode wireless hand sets.

Delay by the FCC in determining what portions of the two WRC 2000 bands are suitable for allocation for 3G services in the United States will seriously harm UWCC members and the U.S. consumers they serve. Without decisive action by the FCC, equipment development and strategic planning for prompt 3G deployment will necessarily be postponed due to regulatory uncertainty about the allocation of additional 3G spectrum in the United States. Any regulatory delay would, unfortunately, only exacerbate the already challenging global wireless environment confronting U.S. wireless operators. According to a recent report by the Precursor Group², the U.S. wireless industry is already suffering from chronic spectrum shortages — shortages that will become more critical to the provision of 3G services to U.S. consumers if prompt remedial action is not taken by the FCC. The Precursor Group's report on 3G spectrum issues also noted the relative competitive disadvantage

² "U.S. Disadvantaged by Spectrum Scarcity" — a July 25, 2000 Report by the Precursor Group of Washington, D.C.

under which U.S. wireless providers currently operate when competing with European wireless operators, who on average have 355 MHz of spectrum available for commercial mobile uses compared to only 210 MHz of comparable spectrum allocated in the United States for commercial mobile operators.

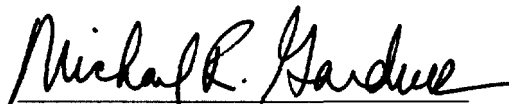
These realities further confirm the need for the FCC's prompt commencement of a tightly managed rulemaking that will, in the shortest time possible, result in the FCC's identification of additional, harmonized 3G spectrum for the U.S. wireless industry. Anything less than urgent, focused action by the Commission will disadvantage U.S. consumers whose voracious appetite for new wireless services is evident in the U.S. wireless marketplace that will shortly exceed 100 million subscribers. If regulatory delay and a lack of vision regarding the promise of competitive 3G services occur in the United States, the real potential exists for the widespread deployment of harmonized 3G services everywhere in the world except the United States.

Conclusion

In the explosive and highly competitive 3G global marketplace, time is of the essence for the U.S. wireless industry – and U.S. consumers, who rightfully expect that industry to provide consumers the most attractive and affordable wireless services. With the satisfactory conclusion of the WRC 2000 Conference where the

U.S. Delegation played a leadership role in the identification of two additional bands of spectrum for IMT-2000 3G services, the FCC must move forward promptly to allocate additional harmonized 3G spectrum from the 1.7 GHz and 2.5 GHz bands. Without regulatory certainty in the near term regarding additional 3G spectrum, UWCC member companies will be severely hobbled and their ability to promote the most robust competitive wireless environment will be compromised. Likewise, the interests of U.S. consumers will be compromised, as they are the certain beneficiaries of the most robust competition possible in a harmonized 3G global marketplace. From a United States policy perspective, prompt identification and allocation by the FCC of adequate additional 3G spectrum within the 1.7 GHz and 2.5 GHz bands, is essential and clearly in the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,
The Universal Wireless Communications Consortium

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael R. Gardner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Gardner" clearly legible.

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August 25, 2000

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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